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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Coordinator of the States members of the Rio Group, I have the honour to submit herewith the Declaration of the Tenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 September 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 27, 78, 96, 98, 99 and 104 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Edgar CAMACHO-OMISTE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Declaration of the Tenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group

We, the heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, meeting in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 September 1996, the year commemorating the tenth anniversary of the creation of this Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action, note with satisfaction that:

- Our goals, including the strengthening of concerted political action and coordination, are being fully met. During these years of continuing dialogue, the Mechanism has efficiently represented the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean and has thus become a fundamental factor in regional unity and solidarity;

- The Rio Group has contributed to the defence and consolidation of representative democracy and human rights, principles which our peoples consider to be essential;

- The Group has become a recognized participant in international relations and maintains a continuing and increasingly broad dialogue with other regions and countries of the world;

- The Group has steadfastly supported and promoted regional integration processes, whose substantial progress can be seen in the increase in intraregional trade and investment;

- Our region has made significant headway in combating drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism. This is evident in the signing, at Caracas, of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the results of the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism held at Lima and the progress made in elaborating a hemisphere-wide strategy to combat drug trafficking and related crimes under the auspices of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission;

- The region has become the first nuclear-weapon-free zone with the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Encouraged by the productive results of the past 10 years, we of the Rio Group agree, on the basis of the democratic ideals which characterize our actions, to strengthen the procedures for consultation and concerted action with which we follow up and coordinate our positions in dealing with the items on the international agenda.

Stressing the richness and ethnic and cultural diversity of our region and its deep unity of purpose and interests, we have agreed on the following:

Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the Rio Group

Representative democracy and efforts to fight poverty

As a priority task of our countries, we endorse the promotion of representative democracy as a system of government and confirm our political will to continue to defend it while respecting the sovereignty of States, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by the Rio Group at Acapulco in 1987 and by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at Santiago in 1991. We reaffirm, in that context, our determination to overcome poverty, malnutrition, marginalization, lack of access to health services, and illiteracy, through policies geared to promoting sustainable medium- and long-term economic development.

We urge the international financial institutions to strengthen their support for our countries in the fight against poverty by providing both resources and technical assistance to national programmes.

We undertake to pursue our policies to encourage economic agents, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to create productive, decently paid jobs and to promote, as a basic priority, education, training and skills-improvement for the most vulnerable sectors of our populations.

Sustainable development

We confirm our belief that Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, has established the principles of sustainable development. Accordingly, we not only commit our own efforts but also call on international, hemispheric and regional intergovernmental organizations to participate actively in organizing and following up the tasks to ensure that the summit on sustainable development to be held in Bolivia on 7 and 8 December 1996 is a historic occasion, laying the foundations of a hemispheric agenda for sustainable development that will be the core of national and international actions geared to meeting economic, social and environmental objectives. In addition, we reaffirm the importance of committing fresh, additional resources to financing the plan of action to be adopted at that summit.

Integration and trade

We reaffirm the importance of integrating our economies in order to reach higher levels of growth and economic and social development and to ensure that the region participates more effectively in the world economy. In this decade we have made substantial progress in reactivating subregional integration processes, as evinced by the strengthening of the Central American Common Market, the Caribbean Common Market and the Andean Common Market and the creation of new mechanisms such as the Group of Three, the Southern Cone Common Market, the Association of Caribbean States and the many bilateral free-trade agreements that either have been signed or are being negotiated. This has meant a substantial increase in intraregional trade from 1990 to 1996.

We renew our countries' commitment to an open, non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral free-trade system, in which the opening up of markets and the elimination of barriers encourage the comparative advantages of our economies and foster their competitive position in the world economy. In that context, we underline the importance of the first ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held at Singapore in December 1996, and our authorities' participation in consultations on the agenda for that meeting.

We reaffirm the importance of the Rio Group's considerable participation in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Summit of the Americas. In that connection, we note that the next summit meeting will be held at Santiago, Chile.

We reiterate our commitment to the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas, which sets as a target the achievement of a free-trade area for the Americas by 2005.

We draw attention to the recent establishment of a high-level committee which has been asked, together with the Latin American Parliament, to prepare a working agenda and to promote studies on the creation of a Latin American community of nations, which will be submitted to Governments in due time.

We express our commitment to the elaboration and implementation of a strategy for the physical integration of the region, aware of the urgent task of developing an adequate transport and communications infrastructure, and we therefore call on the competent national authorities to pursue their efforts in that direction.

Extraterritoriality of domestic laws

We reject any attempt to impose unilateral sanctions of an extraterritorial nature in application of a country's domestic law, as this contravenes the rules governing the coexistence of States and ignores the basic principle of respect for sovereignty, in addition to constituting a violation of international law.

We therefore reaffirm our vigorous rejection of the so-called Helms-Burton Act and, in that connection, stress the importance of the unanimous view expressed by the Inter-American Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States, which we endorse, to the effect that the bases and the prospective enforcement of that Act are inconsistent with international law.

Dialogue between the Rio Group and the European Union

We recognize that the institutionalized dialogue between the Rio Group and the European Union, in the five years since it was initiated, has fostered a fruitful rapprochement between the two regions which, in turn, has led to the establishment of other invaluable mechanisms of political and economic dialogue between subregions and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union.

Efforts to combat drug trafficking and related crimes

We call upon the international community to intensify dialogue and cooperation in efforts to combat the consumption, production, trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs, as well as related crimes, including the diversion of chemical precursors, money-laundering and illicit arms trafficking. Full observance of the principle of shared responsibility will lead to more effective results that reflect a comprehensive and balanced view of the drug problem, which will enable us to interlink national, regional and global efforts, in accordance with the principles of international law.

We reiterate that a comprehensive strategy in the fight against drugs must include the social and economic aspects of the phenomenon, to which end efforts must be directed towards alternative social and regional development programmes designed to help improve the living conditions of the rural families affected.

The special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the problem of illicit drugs and related crimes, to be held in 1998, should help to achieve these objectives. In this context, we have decided to instruct the Rio Group's Ad Hoc Working Group on Drugs to embark on a study of the main points of the agenda for that session.

Inter-American Convention against Corruption

Considering that the Inter-American Convention against Corruption is the first international instrument to combat this scourge, placing our region at the forefront of initiatives of this type, we pledge to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Convention is ratified promptly by the corresponding legislative bodies and that the cooperation mechanisms it envisages are put into practice.

Cultural integration

Convinced of the importance of culture as a factor which integrates our peoples, and bearing in mind that the diversity of Latin American and Caribbean culture projects the true wealth of our societies, we hereby instruct the competent government authorities of the countries of the Rio Group to meet, as soon as possible, to design a plan of action on information and cooperation for cultural integration in the region.

We have agreed to hold the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of State and Government at Asunción, Republic of Paraguay, in the first week of September 1997.

Our Ministers for Foreign Affairs shall be responsible for the systematic follow-up of the decisions taken by the Group, through the secretariat pro tempore and the Troika.

We, the heads of State and Government meeting at Cochabamba, wish to express our thanks and congratulations to the President of the Republic of Bolivia, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, to his Government and to the people of Bolivia for their hospitality and for the excellent organization and conduct of

the tenth summit of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action.

(Signed) Dr. Carlos Saúl MENEM
President of Argentina

(Signed) Fernando Henrique CARDOSO
President of Brazil

(Signed) Ernesto SAMPER PIZANO
President of Colombia

(Signed) Abdalá BUCARAM ORTIZ
President of Ecuador

(Signed) Ernesto PÉREZ BALLADARES
President of Panama

(Signed) Alberto FUJIMORI FUJIMORI
President of Peru

(Signed) Hugo BATALLA PARENTINI
Vice-President of Uruguay

(Signed) Gonzalo SÁNCHEZ de LOZADA
President of Bolivia

(Signed) Eduardo FREI RUIZ-TAGLE
President of Chile

(Signed) Fernando NARANJO VILLALOBOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Costa Rica
(Representing the Central American countries)

(Signed) Ernesto ZEDILLO PONCE de LEÓN
President of Mexico

(Signed) Juan Carlos WASMOSY
President of Paraguay

(Signed) Basdeo PANDAY
Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
(Representing CARICOM)

(Signed) Rafael CALDERA
President of Venezuela